

**REMARKS**

Claims 21-28 are currently pending in this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and any other claims in this application and in any other application.

The specification has been amended to update the priority information.

Claims 21-28 stand rejected under judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,655,861.

The present application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/152,842, filed May 23, 2002, and issued as U.S. Patent 6,655,861. As suggested in the Office Action, an terminal disclaimer to the 6,655,861 patent is attached. Also attached is a copy of the assignment filed in the parent case reflecting ownership of the patent to Ricoh Company, Ltd. Therefore, the rejection of claims 21-28 should be respectfully withdrawn.

Application No. 10/662,415  
Amendment dated January 27, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of October 27, 2005

Docket No.: R2184.0157/P157-A

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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